

## MINUTES

### MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers

6:30-8:30 PM

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), S. Baxter (staff), N. Hovorka, J. Buck (Chair), A. Bladen, S. Daley, V. Macowsky (guest), T. Domingues (guest), J. Goldman, B. Lehmann, R. Leclerc (staff), L. Dahn, M. Esquilin (guest), T. Marr-Smith, S. Patwa, K. Vallo

#### I. INTRODUCTIONS/MINUTES:

- A. Introductions: new members and guests: Anne Bladen introduced herself as the interim acting director of UConn Child Labs. Veronica Macowsky and Terry Domingues introduced themselves as members of the UConn Provost's Committee on Childcare.
- B. Adoption of minutes of September 21 and November 17, 2005: the minutes of the November 17 meeting were accepted as written.
- C. Award Letter: Discovery 2006: J. Buck announced that we have received an award letter from Graustein in the amount of \$20,000 for 2006.

#### II. COMMUNICATIONS (Consent Agenda, unless otherwise noted)

- A. Completed final copy of Discovery 2005 Assessment & Planning Tool
- B. Drafts #2 & #3 of The School Readiness Waiting List- Enrollment Policy
- C. Daily Campus Article about UConn Work Life web site
- D. Chronicle Article on Universal Preschool
- E. Connecticut Parent Power Survey Results for CT and Mansfield

#### III. *NEW BUSINESS*

- A. "B-A-N-G": Big Audacious New Goal Leads to more focused Action Planning: S. Baxter outlined achievements as part of the Discovery initiative over the past year, and stated that she feels that the group needs to focus on publicizing our accomplishments. The group began a general discussion to identify a primary objective/goal for Discovery for this year. M. Esquilin pointed out that the objective must be measurable and related to the assessment and planning tool that was completed for last year. She also suggested that we should look at developing a systematic method to address the ECE needs of

Mansfield. There was some discussion as to whether or not supporting the objectives of the Provost's Council fit into this, or whether or not that was a separate issue. M. Esquelin suggested that we approach this by looking at the outcomes that we would like to achieve, and to make sure that these outcomes are measurable. There was also some discussion about looking at objectives that support and sustain quality care. The group was unable to complete this task, and agreed to meet on February 8 with the sole task being to complete the Action Plan. K. Grunwald and S. Baxter agreed to develop a draft for members to respond to at that meeting.

- B. CT Parent Power Survey results for Mansfield: S. Baxter distributed results of the survey; the question was raised as to how they will be used?
- C. Discovery "50th Community" Invitation: S. Baxter reported that she is part of this group and they will be developing a statewide survey on ECE.
- D. School Readiness 50% Subsidy for Professional Development for Four Participating Centers: S. Baxter reported that we will subsidize training for staff of each of the four SR Centers, using funds from the grant.
- E. Connections Team – Conflict Resolution Workshop, Jan.30, 2006: Kate Vallo and Janet LaMarre (Handout): all individuals are invited to attend. This is one workshop in a series being planned.
- F. UConn Provost's Council Report: V. Macowsky and T. Domingues representing the Provost Council's committee on childcare, spoke about identifying the childcare needs of staff, faculty and students. The committee is looking at what UConn can do to support the early care facilities in Mansfield, including looking at the possibility of changing the financial contribution they make to these centers. The University is establishing the position of a Work-Life Coordinator to serve as a liaison with community organizations providing work-life services. The suggestion has been made for UConn to partner with the Town to support the needs of the Centers. They are looking at affordability, accessibility, and capacity. S. Daley said that she feels that the goals of the University are consistent with the goals of the Centers to provide quality affordable care. They are hoping that money will be made available through the legislature to support this. S. Patwa questioned the

requirements for a medical consultant to the Centers. L. Dahn stated that there is a requirement to have a nurse visit weekly, and they state it's difficult to find someone willing to do this. S. Daley added that there is a requirement to have several consultants available to the Center; NAEYC requirements are changing for a health consultant. J. Buck asked how the recommendations of the Center Directors will be acted on? V. Macowsky stated that she would like the Town to provide more support to all licensed Centers in town, and to partner with the University in doing this. She also stated that she would like to MAC take a proactive stance in helping the recommendations of the Provost's Council be implemented. K. Grunwald stated that he feels that the Council needs to make a specific proposal to MAC in terms of what they're looking for this group to do, and Veronica stated that they will go back to their group to formulate a request. R. Leclerc pointed out that the public schools have all they can do to provide nurses for each school, and it would not be realistic to extend these services to the Centers. J. Buck asked that the Provost's Council prioritize their issues and return to MAC with a specific request regarding next steps.

IV. PROGRAM UPDATES

- A. School Readiness – 5 New Slots
- B. Discovery 2006 New Calendar, Action Plan due 2/28/06

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. School Readiness Waiting List/ Enrollment Policy: after some discussion the Council voted in favor of adopting "Draft 3" of the School Readiness Enrollment/Waiting List policy. B. Lehmann requested that there be periodic follow-up to see how the process is working.
- B. "Other": none

VI. Next Meeting(s)- Suggested Meeting Dates: 2/28/06 Tues., 3/22/06 Wed., 4/27/06, Thurs., 5/24/06, Wed., 6/28/06, Wed., NO MEETING JULY, 8/23/06, Wed.

- Meetings are held from 6:30- 8:30 PM at a location to be determined. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed, or removed as not needed.

VII. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald